



**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY WHIP
THE HONORABLE JAMES E. CLYBURN (SC-06)**

THE WHIP PACK

WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2008

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Bill Text and Background for the Week of April 21, 2008

- H.R. 5819 - To amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, and for other purposes
- H.R. 2830 - Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007

H.R. 5819 - TO AMEND THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT TO IMPROVE THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAM AND THE SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (STTR) PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES *(Rep. Velazquez – Small Business) (Subject to a Rule)*

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: Tuesday April 22, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in H-313 the Capitol, [Special Announcement](#), [Meeting Time: 5:00pm Tuesday 4/22](#), [Text of Bill as Ordered Reported](#), [Amendment Deadline: 10:00am Tuesday 4/22](#)

Committee: [Committee on Small Business](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-4038

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

The SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act extends for a period of two years the Federal government's largest small business research and development programs. Notably, the legislation increases the amount of funding for small research firms by half a billion dollars. The legislation modernizes the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program so that it is synch with the needs of small research firms and can continue to increase the global competitiveness of the U.S. economy.

Encouraging greater participation in SBIR and STTR

- The Act includes a number of provisions designed to encourage more small firms to apply for SBIR and STTR awards. The bill more than doubles the size of SBIR and STTR awards for Phase I and Phase II grants and establishes. It also provides access to technical assistance and places an emphasis on research on alternative fuels and orphan diseases.

Providing greater access to capital for small businesses.

- Repeals 2003 SBA ruling that limited small businesses' access to venture capital.

Advancing commercialization of SBIR-funded research and development projects

- The legislation establishes an initiative to increase participation from small firms owned by veterans, women and minorities and those located in rural areas. This will diversify the program and increase competition for these important awards. It also provides a greater emphasis on commercialization so that new technologies can reach the marketplace quicker. The bill includes several initiatives and funding to increase such commercialization, including the creation of public-private partnerships and technical assistance.

House Report 110-595:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee on Small Business Mark-up:

[Full Committee Markup>>](#): Legislation Reauthorizing the SBIR and STTR programs, April 17, 2008

[National Journal Report](#): Panel Backs Bill Aimed At Small Business Innovation

- [Video Highlights on YouTube](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Chairwoman Velazquez Venture Capital Ownership Amendment](#) — clarifies that small businesses with venture capital investment can continue to participate in the SBIR and STTR programs, as long as the venture capital firm has less than 500 employees and does not own a majority stake or control a majority of boards seats in the company seeking SBIR funding. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by a Roll Call Vote of **20-0; R 7-0; D 13-0; I 0-0.**

CRS Reports:

(TBA)

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

CBO Report:

(TBA)

Committee on Small Business Hearings:

[Full Committee on Small Business Hearing>>](#): “SBIR: America’s National Technology Development Incubator,” January 29, 2008

- [Click here to watch video clips of the hearing](#)

Witness Testimony:

- [Mr. Douglas A. Doerfler](#), MaxCyte, Inc.
- [Mr. Robert J. Beall, Ph.D.](#), Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- [Mr. Michael Borrus](#), X/Seed Capital Management
- [Lt. General Lawrence P. Farrell, USAF \(Ret.\)](#), National Defense Industrial Association
- [Mr. William E. Bean](#), Technology & Business Center

[Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight Hearing>>](#): “SBIR: Advancing Medical Breakthroughs”, February 13, 2008

Witness Testimony:

- [Ms. Jo Anne Goodnight](#), National Institutes of Health
- [Ms. Amy Comstock Rick](#), Parkinson’s Action Network
- [Mr. Mel Billingsley, Ph.D.](#), Life Sciences Greenhouse, On behalf of Pennsylvania BIO
- [Mr. James D. Stefansic, Ph.D., M.B.A.](#), Pathfinder Therapeutics, Inc., On behalf of AdvaMed
- [Mr. Nicholas Franano, M.D.](#) | [Testimony Attachment](#), Proteon Therapeutics, Inc

[Full Committee on Small Business Hearing>>](#): “Legislation to Reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program”, March 13, 2008

- [Click here to watch video clips of the hearing](#)

Witness Testimony:

- [Honorable Steven C. Preston](#), U.S. Small Business Administration
- [The Honorable James C. Greenwood](#), Biotechnology Industry Organization
- [Mr. Mark G. Heesen](#), National Venture Capital Association
- [Mr. Mark B. Leahey, Esq.](#), Medical Device Manufacturers Association
- [Mr. Mark Skinner](#), State Science & Technology Institute (SSTI)
- [Mr. Charles H. Matthews, Ph.D.](#), Center for Entrepreneurship, Education & Research College of Business, University of Cincinnati

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:

[March 13, 2008 Press Release](#): Committee on Small Business Reviews Proposal to Modernize SBIR Program

[February 13, 2008 Press Release](#): House Subcommittee Examines the Role of SBIR in Fostering Medical Breakthroughs

[January 29, 2008 Press Release](#): Committee on Small Business Calls for Sweeping Reforms to SBIR Program

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 5819](#)

H.R. 2830 - COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007 (Rep. Oberstar – Transportation and Infrastructure) (Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: Tuesday April 22, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in H-313 the Capitol, [Special Announcement](#), [Meeting Time: 5:00pm Tuesday 4/22](#), [Amendment Deadline: 5:00pm Monday 4/21](#), [Text of Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute](#)

Committee: [Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#), [Committee on Homeland Security](#), [Committee on the Judiciary](#)

Committee Staff Contact: T&I: 5-4472; Homeland: 6-2616; Judiciary: 5-3951

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

H.R. 2830 STRENGTHENS THE COAST GUARD & OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

Provides Resources, Builds Capacity, and Takes Care of Coast Guard Personnel:

- Increases authorized end-strength by 1,500 members to 47,000 and increases funding to the Coast Guard to \$8.4 billion (\$200 million over the President's budget) to ensure that the Coast Guard can successfully execute all its missions.
- Authorizes additional maritime security response teams and canine detection teams to detect explosives, interdict drugs and smuggled persons and authorizes the Waterway Watch Program, a program for boaters to notify the CG of suspicious activity.
- Grants access to the Armed Forces Retirement Home system to Coast Guard veterans and allows reimbursement of medical-related travel for members assigned to remote locations.

Strengthens Port Security, Immigration Enforcement and Drug Interdiction

- Requires the Coast Guard to protect and enforce security zones around all existing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities and, for each new LNG facility and requires a certification that the Coast Guard has the resources to protect the facility before such its security plan is approved. Allows State and local entities to assist Coast Guard in protecting the security zones around LNG facilities.
- Requires DHS to analyze the threat, vulnerability and consequences of a terrorist attack on gasoline and chemical cargo shipments and report the findings to Congress.
- Requires cruise ship owners and operators to notify DHS of security incidents involving a U.S. person that include death, serious bodily injury, and sexual assault on a cruise ship.
- Authorizes a biometric program in the Caribbean that has been linked to a significant drop in the number of illegal migrants trying to reach the United States by boat.

Reorganizes the Coast Guard to Meet its Multi-Mission Responsibilities:

- Strengthens the Coast Guard's marine safety capabilities by establishing an Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, and builds capacity throughout the sectors by establishing Sector Marine Safety leadership and qualifications for training and experience for all marine safety personnel.
- Strengthens the Coast Guard's port security capabilities by establishing an Assistant Commandant for Port and Waterways Security to be responsible for all regulations and policies regarding security in our nation's ports and waterways.
- Moves the appeals process for suspensions or revocations of a mariner's license (e.g., a Captain's license) from a Coast Guard Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to a National Transportation Safety Board ALJ where similar appeals of FAA decisions to suspend or revoke an airline pilot's license are handled. Appeals related to Transportation Worker Identification Cards (TWIC) would remain with the Coast Guard.

Enhances Accountability for the Deepwater Program:

- Addresses the contract management problems with this much-delayed program, a \$24 billion, 25-year procurement to modernize the Coast Guard's ships and aircraft.
- Eliminates the use of Lead System Integrators beginning on October 1, 2011 or earlier if the Secretary of Homeland Security can certify that the Coast Guard has the capacity to assume the role sooner.
- Requires the appointment of a qualified civilian as Chief Acquisitions Officer reporting directly to the Coast Guard Commandant.
- Identical to H.R. 2722 (passed the House on 07/31/07 by a vote of 426-0).

Enhances Fishing Vessel Safety and Environmental Protection

- Enhances requirements for safety equipment to be carried on commercial fishing vessels and requires training for vessel operators; commercial fishing is the most dangerous job in the United States and has a high rate of injuries and deaths.
- Limits emissions from ships of sulfur oxide and nitrogen oxide (which are ozone depleting substances), mandates the use of cleaner engines and fuel to meet EPA standards, and institutes changes needed to bring the U.S. into compliance with international maritime pollution convention. (Identical to H.R. 802, the Maritime Pollution Prevention Act of 2007, which passed the House on 03/26/07 by a vote of 359-48.)
- Requires that U.S. vessels carrying more than 600 cubic meters of oil have double hulls around their fuel tanks to prevent the disastrous consequences of accidents such as the one that occurred last November when the COSCO BUSAN released 53,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil into San Francisco Bay following its collision with the Bay Bridge.

- Requires ships to begin installing ballast water treatment systems in 2008 to control the introduction of invasive species into U.S. ports and waterways and adopts international standard for ballast water for the period 2008-12 but requires the standard to be at least 100 times higher than the international standard in 2012.

H.R. 2399, THE ALIEN SMUGGLING AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2007 IS TOUGH ON BORDER SECURITY

- The Rule adds H.R. 2399, the Alien Smuggling and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007, which passed the House on May 22, 2007 by a vote of 412-0.
- Provides strong new enforcement tools at the border, including increased criminal penalties for: alien smuggling, human trafficking and slavery; drug trafficking; and terrorism or espionage.
- Subjects smugglers and traffickers to even higher penalties for transporting persons under inhumane conditions, such as in an engine or storage compartment, or for causing serious bodily injury.
- Directs the Department of Homeland Security to check against all available terrorist watch lists alien smugglers and smuggled individuals who are interdicted at U.S. land, air, and sea borders.
- Tightens proof requirements for distinguishing covert transportation of family members or others for humanitarian reasons, for which the penalties are less severe.

House Report 110-338:

Part I: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Part II: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Part III: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee on the Judiciary Mark-up:

[Full Committee Markup>>](#): H.R. 3921, H.R. 2405, H.R. 2884, H.R. 1512, H.R. 1312, H.R. 3609, H.R. 2830, To Consider a Resolution, and H.R. 2128, October 24, 2007

- Click Here for [Video Webcast](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Chairman Conyers, D-Mich. Manager's Amendment](#) — Increases penalties for maritime human smuggling violations. The amendment requires a sentence of up to five years for a violation of human smuggling laws. The amendment provides that any intentional violation of maritime human smuggling that interferes with shipping vessels or transportation for illegal sexual activity be subject to up to 10 years in prison. The amendment establishes a 15-year maximum prison penalty if the smuggling results in serious bodily injury, or transportation under inhumane conditions. The amendment also requires that if the smuggling results in a death or involved kidnapping, an attempt to kidnap, the conduct required for aggravated sexual abuse or an attempt to kill, violators could be imprisoned for up to life. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by **Voice Vote.**

Full Committee on Homeland Security Mark-up:

[Full Committee Markup](#): H.R. 2830, the "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007," September 25, 2007

National Journal Report

- [Opening Statement](#): Chairman Thompson
- Click Here for [Action Sheet](#), [Video Webcast](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Chairman B. Thompson, D-Miss. Substitute Amendment](#) — Enhances the port security provisions of the bill and reflects Committee's oversight of the Coast Guard. The Amendment, among other things: Increases the authorization for acquisitions and construction budget for the U.S. Coast Guard by about \$229 million; Strengthens language to more closely connect the new Ombudsman program to the existing Area Maritime Security Committees; Adds a new section to the bill that would allow the secretary to convey decommissioned vessels to Mississippi for homeland security and other purposes; Add a new section that would aim to enhance the Coast Guard presence in the U.S Virgin Islands. Reauthorize the existing Coast Guard Waterway Watch Program, which is a Coast Guard program to promote security awareness; Require the comptroller general to conduct a study on background checks by the states which are similar to the Transportation Worker Identification Credential Program to see if redundancies and inefficiencies exist between the two; Authorizes an additional maritime security response team; Authorizes 10 additional dog teams per year for maritime security through 2012; Prohibits the secretary of Homeland Security from using a private sector entity as the lead systems integrator for the Deepwater Program, beginning on Oct. 1, 2011 or before; and Requires the Coast Guard commandant to appoint a career civilian employee to serve as the chief acquisitions officer for the Deepwater Program. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. McCaul Research Projects Amendment to the Substitute Amendment](#) — Would have added at the end of titled VII, three sections respectfully entitled: "Extension of Authority of Secretary of Homeland Security to Carry out Certain Research and Development Projects"; Availability of Testing Facilities and Equipment"; and "Sec 316. Availability of Testing Facilities and Equipment." **Withdrawn.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by **Voice Vote.**

Full Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Mark-up:

[Full Committee Markup>>](#): H.R. 2830, the "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007," June 28, 2007

- [Summary of Subject Matter](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- Rep. Cummings, D-Md. Liquified Natural Gas Terminals Amendment — Requires that a liquefied natural gas facility cannot receive certification unless it is determined that the facility has all the assets that it needs in terms of waterside terminal security. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Ehlers, R-Mich. Invasive Species Study Amendment — Implements standards, by way of a study, to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species by vessels. The amendment authorizes \$3 million annually, from fiscal 2008 to 2012, for these efforts. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Higgins, D-N.Y. Relocate Coast Guard Facilities in Buffalo Amendment — Commissions a study to evaluate the feasibility of consolidating and relocating Coast Guard facilities at Coast Guard Sector Buffalo. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. R. Baker, R-La. Transportation Worker Identification Credentials Amendment — Would have allowed a newly hired employee to work onboard a towing vessel for up to 90 days before submitting an application for a transportation worker identification credential, so long as the employee passed a pre-employment drug test, as required by Coast Guard regulations, and the employee passed a name-based security screen against the terrorist watch list. **Withdrawn.**
- Rep. Poe, R-Texas Alien Smuggling Amendment — Provides for a prison sentence of not more than 20 years or not more than \$100,000, in fines or both, for trying to smuggle an individual into the United States. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
 - Rep. Cummings, D-Md. Alien Smuggling Substitute Amendment to the Poe Alien Smuggling Amendment — Would have included text from HR 2399, addressing smuggling in all forms, not just maritime smuggling. It would have increased penalties for knowingly bringing illegal immigrants into the United States or transporting and harboring them after arrival. Those who aid illegal immigrants involved in terrorism would have been subject to a prison term of up to 30 years. **Ruled Not Germane.**
- Rep. Cummings, D-Md. Waiver for Former State-Owned Vessel Amendment — Provides for a waiver to the owner a vessel -- Maryland Independence -- that was once owned by the state of Maryland. The waiver by the Coast Guard is needed for the vessel to be owned private citizen. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by **Voice Vote.**

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Mark-up:

[Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Markup>>](#): H.R. 2830, the "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007", June 26, 2007

- [Summary of Subject Matter](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Rep. Cummings, D-Md. Nuisance Species Amendment](#) — Added provisions aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species between bodies of water. The Amendment requires the secretary of Homeland Security to do the following: issue regulations to minimize the transport of nuisance species through vessels without pumpable ballast water; conduct several surveys on ballast water and submit to Congress reports on the findings; establish a Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program to evaluate alternative ballast water management methods aboard vessels to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species, including establishment of a grant program and evaluating alternative ship paths; and prescribe an alternative safety compliance program for standards of some fishing vessels. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full Committee, as Amended, by **Voice Vote.**

CRS Reports:

[RL33753](#): Coast Guard Deepwater Program: Background, Oversight Issues, and Options for Congress

[RL32294](#): Haiti: Developments and U.S. Policy Since 1991 and Current Congressional Concerns

[RL32073](#): Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Infrastructure Security: Issues for Congress

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

CBO Report:

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the Committee on the Judiciary on October 24, 2007

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the Committee on Homeland Security on September 25, 2007

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on June 28, 2007

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:

[Oberstar, Cummings Introduce Coast Guard Reauthorization Bill>>](#)

June 22, 2007 Press Release — Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 2830](#)